No Experience Necessary

Hobby Stocks Offer Beginners Spot In Fast Lane

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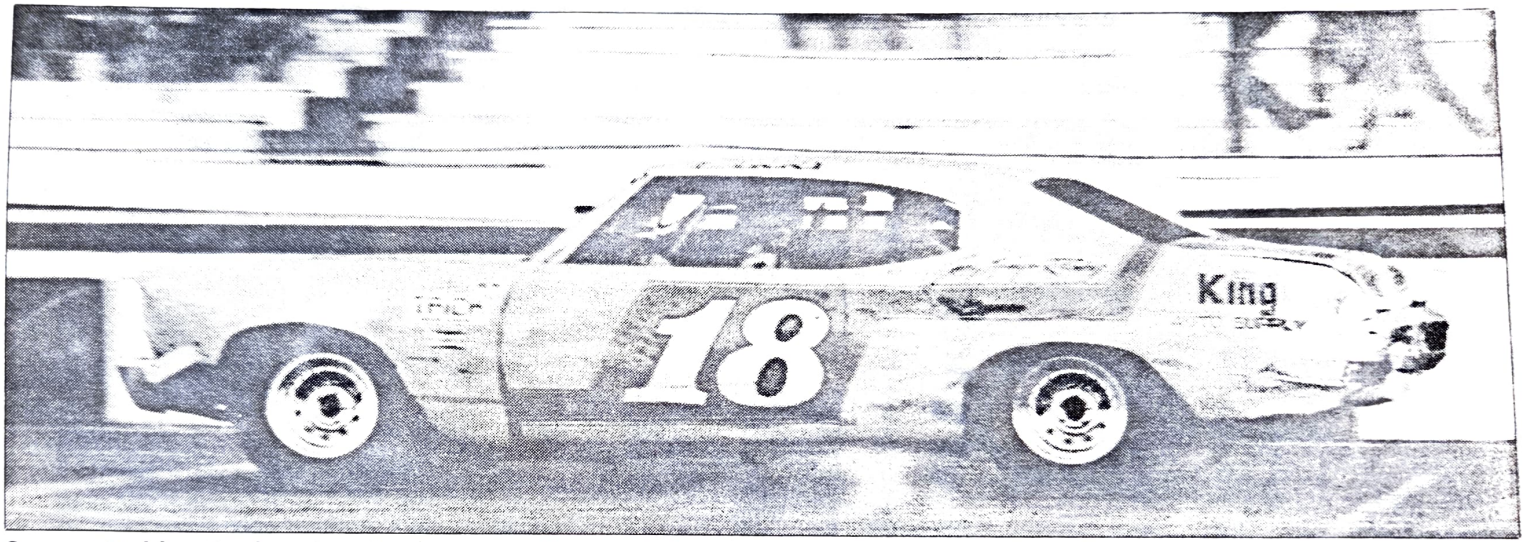

Current Hobby Stock points leader Larry Krieger (above) said he worked hard to get sponsors so he could move up into the Street Stock class. But for the time being, maintaining the race car (below) is still a hands-on job.

Rick Crow, Larry Krieger and Brian Kelley are all of the same mind set. Although they're rival drivers in the Hobby Stock division at Saugus Speedway, the three have the same priorities.

They all spend countless hours working on their race cars, spend, they estimate, a minimum of $150 every week, but that figure flucuates depending on how badly their cars were damaged during the previous weekend's racing, and have racing on their minds virtually 24 hours a day.

As Crow, a Canyon Country native, put it, "I try to take Monday nights off. Tuesday nights I bowl with my wife — that's the only night she gets a week. Then Wednesday and Thursday I get off work at 6 (p.m.) and I work on the car until midnight or 1 in the morning."

Sue Pittinato, Gary Redel, and countless other Hobby Stock three nights underneath it, and you got a wife and kids, yeah, you get tired of it."

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Hobby Stock is a beginners' class. Modified is the top class at Saugus, then in descending order are Sportsman, Street Stock, Hobby Stock and Jalopy. The top three classes race for purses, while Hobby Stocks and Jalopies are lumped into the same races